



January 28, 2002

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Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to give my opinion on the settlement concluded last year between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I believe the agreement represents a good deal and should continue to be supported by the federal government.

The agreement is fair and the government received many strong provisions. Microsoft has agreed to design future versions of Windows to provide a mechanism to make it easy for computer makers, consumers and software developers to promote non-Microsoft software within Windows. This mechanism will make it easy to add or remove access to features built in to Windows or to non-Microsoft software. This change will give consumers the freedom to change their computer's configuration whenever they so desire.

This agreement is also good for consumers because it allows Microsoft to focus their attention on new products that consumers have come to expect. This will make everyone more efficient, whether they use the products at home or their job.

Sincerely,

Maya Balle